

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~An adsorbent formed by~~A method for the production of an adsorbent, said method comprising the steps of:

changing a mixed aqueous solution of an active carbon and a ~~gel-formable~~gel-like substance into a gel; and

subsequently subjecting the ~~resultant~~said gel to a freezing treatment.

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled.

4. Cancelled.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently amended) ~~An adsorbent~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance is ~~the~~a divalent metallic salt of a macromolecular polycarboxylic acid.

7. (Currently amended) ~~An adsorbent~~The method according to claim 6, wherein said divalent metallic salt of said macromolecular polycarboxylic acid is calcium alginate.

8. (Currently amended) ~~An adsorbent~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance is a konjak or a chitosanoxalic acid salt.

9. (Currently amended) ~~An adsorbent formed by drying an adsorbent set forth in claim 1.~~The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of drying said adsorbent.

10. (Currently amended) ~~An adsorbent which comprises an adsorbent moiety comprising an adsorbent set forth in claim 1 and a gel substance moiety.~~The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of mixing said adsorbent into said gel-like substance.

11. (Currently amended) ~~An adsorbent~~The method according to claim 10, ~~which is formed by~~further comprising the step of seasoning either said adsorbent ~~moiety~~ or said gel substance ~~moiety~~.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Currently amended) ~~An agent~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said adsorbent is an agent for removing a harmful substance by adsorption, ~~said agent comprises an adsorbent set forth in claim 1.~~

14. (Currently amended) ~~An agent~~ The method according to claim 13, wherein said harmful substance is a food additive, a feed additive, an agricultural pesticide, a food poisoning substance, allergen, a heavy metal, or a strongly poisonous organic compound which is suffered to adhere to or mingles in a foodstuff or an animal feed or assimilated into the a digestive system.

15. (Currently amended) ~~An agent~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein said feed additive is an antibiotic substance, a synthetic antibacterial agent, or a hormone agent.

16. (Currently amended) ~~An agent~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein said food poisoning substance is exotoxins, autotoxins, or a harmful chemical substance.

17. (Currently amended) ~~An agent~~ The method according to claim 13, wherein said harmful substance is formed of an antibiotic substance which has either undergone oral ingestion or acted on ~~the~~ intestinal bacteria.

18. (Currently amended) ~~An agent~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said adsorbent is an agent for the removal by adsorption of a surplus nutrient assimilated in ~~the a~~ digestive system, ~~which agent comprises an adsorbent set forth in claim 1.~~

19. (Currently amended) ~~An agent~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said adsorbent is an agent for the removal by adsorption of the intermediate metabolite of alcohol formed in ~~the a~~ digestive system in consequence of the assimilation of said alcohol, ~~which agent comprises an adsorbent set forth in claim 1.~~

20. Cancelled.

21. Cancelled.

22. Cancelled.

23. Cancelled.

24. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said active carbon is minute particles of powdered active carbon.